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ISSUE NUMBER 94

# Sevenoaks Newsletter

THE NORTH WEST KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, SEVENOAKS, KENT  
[www.nwkhfs.org.uk](http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk)



## Welcome to NWKFHS Sevenoaks Branch

Our meetings are held at Otford Memorial Hall, 28A High Street, Otford, TN14 5PQ

Doors open at 10:45 am, meeting starts at 11am - Nominal parking fee.

We welcome visitors and new members, and we aspire to offer all the helpful advice that you might need.

Guests we appreciate a £1.00 - £2.00 donation to the society's funds.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

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**Sanitiser and masks available and chairs placed at a friendly distance for those concerned about Covid.**

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## Today's talk

## Tracing My Ancestors During Lockdown

When Clare Walker set out to research her husband's ancestors, she never imagined the astonishing stories she would unearth and the many mysteries that would both enthrall and frustrate her. She also did not bargain on the shocks she would have to deliver to family: ancestors who were executed (they backed the wrong side); murdered in their bed by a best friend; a missing RAF crewman; a doctor who has left his young wife and two small daughters to travel to Australia where he drowned; and a Gaiety girl who voyaged to South Africa with her wedding dress in her suitcase to marry a 'stage-door Johnny'.

Clare began her career as a journalist, went into publishing and then qualified as a pilot aged 50, excelling at each challenge. Since retiring she has co-founded the Dockland Sinfonia. She came from a background of illustrious ancestry, had family memorabilia and the advantage of lots of contacts from her journalism, including photographers. However, when Clare decided to research her and her husband's ancestors during Lockdown, she never imagined the amazing stories that she would uncover.

**Speaker CLARE WALKER**

### NEXT SEVENOAKS BRANCH MEETING

**8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 – The Dartford Hospitals during WW1**

The Dartford Hospitals during WW1: Dartford has an interesting mix of hospitals not all built for local people. During the Wars the hospitals were used by American & Australian forces & the Lower Southern became a German POW hospital.

In this presentation Francine talks about the hospitals during WWI. Francine is the author of three books about Dartford Hospitals.

**Speaker FRANCINE PAYNE**

### DARTFORD BRANCH MEETING

**1 JULY 2023 - Catching up with FamilySearch with Sharon Hintze**

The FamilySearch website adds millions of records worldwide each year and has new initiatives planned for 2023. Sharon will bring us up to date on what is available and how best to access it.

Sharon Hintze is the Director of the FamilySearch Centre and many of our older members will remember her from the LDS centre at Exhibition Road in the late 20th century. She is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Society of Genealogists, lecturer and author on family history topics and is a 5th generation family historian with ancestors in Denmark and the UK.

**Speaker SHARON HINTZE**

## UP AND COMING LIBRARY WORKSHOPS

Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote	21 June 10:30
Workshop for Family History beginners Fran Rogers	28 June 10:30
Workshop for Family History beginners Fran Rogers	28 June 13:00
New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote	19 July 10:30
New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote	16 August 10:30
New to Writing Up your Family History? With Pauline Heathcote	25 October 10:30
Family History Writing Group with Pauline Heathcote	29 November 10:30

The beginner's workshop will cover Birth, Marriages and Death Certificates, Census Records, Parish Registers, Wills and Directories as well as Family Charts and Trees.

## UP AND COMING ZOOM WORKSHOPS

How to Draw a Calligraphic Family Tree with David Cufley	14 June 19:30
Heralds Visitations with David Cufley	12 July 19:30
Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls with David Cufley	9 August 19:30
The Rat Catchers with David Cufley	11 October 19:30
Breaking Down Family History Brick Walls with David Cufley	8 November 19:30

## DISCUSSION GROUPS AT THE LIBRARY

**DNA Discussion Group for those who are either new to DNA or want to discuss particular aspects of DNA** Monthly Event  
**Library Scottish Interests Discussion Group with Pam Goddard and Carolyn Barclay** June and September Event

## MONTHLY ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUPS

**Zoom DNA Discussion Group with Laura Lincoln**

The topic for each meeting is agreed by the members by notifying the leader through [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk).

## ZOOM FAMILY HISTORY DISCUSSION GROUP

*Come and enjoy lively discussions on different aspects of Family History*

Each meeting the topic is agreed by the members at the previous group meeting. It can range from 'how do I do...?' to: 'sources for finding family information'. Because this is an open discussion the subjects can lead to topics that the participants want to discuss or expand upon points raised during the session. The structure is very flexible.

**Please visit our website for further details, dates and times [www.nwkfhs.org.uk](http://www.nwkfhs.org.uk)**

**Changes and up-to-date details will be on the website and in the e-mail information service newsletter.**

*Since re-opening the library post Covid the number of attendees is noticeably down. There are many reasons for this but if it is safety fears, we would like to reassure you that we will do all we can to make you feel and be safe. The tables can be spaced further apart to usual, furthermore, we can seat you on your own table and nobody will object to you wearing a face covering.*

We would be pleased to hear from any volunteers who would like to be involved with any workshops, along with any new topics that interest you. Contact us through bookings and enquiries by e-mail [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk)

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## 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE – LIBRARY WORKSHOP – NEW TO FAMILY HISTORY WITH FRAN RODGERS

If you are new to family history or need to refresh your research techniques, then this workshop is for you.

This workshop will cover Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates, Census Records, Parish Registers, Wills and Directories as well as Family Charts and Trees.

There are two workshops on 28th June, 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

The content of both workshops is the same.

Please book for either session in person at branch meetings or via [workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk](mailto:workshop.booking@nwkfhs.org.uk). You will receive an acknowledgement email and a reminder nearer the time.

Workshop leaders freely give their time, but a donation towards the Society's contribution to the library running costs is appreciated. A donation box will be available on the day.

This is a Members Only face to face meeting at the library, which the Society has sole use of on Wednesdays Kent County Library, 80 Summerhouse Drive, Joydens Wood, Bexley, Kent, DA5 2EE The library opens at 10am.

Parking in nearby roads.

***Please visit our website for details of further workshops and updates and sign up for our free twice monthly Society eNewsletter***

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**NWKFHS members** who missed a ZOOM talk: some speakers have allowed their talks to be recorded and recorded talks are saved here - <https://nwkfhs.org.uk/resources/all-other/zoom-talk-videos> note this link only works for paid up members logged into the website. Sometimes speakers have given permission for their talks only to be recorded for a specified amount of time, so members please do check the link.

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**ON THIS DAY: June 10 is the 161<sup>st</sup> day of the year in the Gregorian calendar; 204 days left until the end of the year.**

**The month of June was named for the Roman goddess Juno, the goddess of marriage and the wife of the supreme deity Jupiter, though there are other etymologies as well.**

- 1190** Third Crusade: Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa drowns while crossing the Saleph River (modern Turkey) leading an army to Jerusalem)
  - 1610** 1st Dutch settlers arrive (from NJ), to colonize Manhattan Island
  - 1692** The first victim of the Salem witch trials, Bridget Bishop, is hanged for witchcraft in the colony of Massachusetts
  - 1786** A landslide dam on the Da du River caused by earthquake ten days earlier collapses, killing 100,000 in the Sichuan province of China
  - 1829** The first Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race takes place
  - 1857** Britain passes an act putting Canada on the decimal currency system. Britain remained on pounds, shilling and pence (£sd)
  - 1898** US Marines land in Cuba during the Spanish—American War
  - 1915** British/French troops conquer German colony of Cameroon
  - 1921** Prince Philip was born on Corfu, Greece. He died on April 9th 2021
  - 1922** Actress Judy Garland was born. She died on June 22nd 1969
  - 1940** Italy declares war on France and Great Britain as part of its Axis alliance with Nazi Germany
  - 1940** Norway surrenders to Nazi Germany after 62 days of fighting
  - 1977** Apple Computer ships its first Apple II computers
  - 2003** The Spirit Rover is launched, beginning NASA's Mars Exploration Rover mission
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### **Society of Genealogists June Events**

- Thursday, 15 June 2023 14:00 - Sounds Familiar? Accent, Dialect & Linguistic Identity in the UK with Jonnie Robinson (1-hour talk)
- Saturday, 17 June 2023 10:30 - Getting the Most from TheGenealogist Website with Mark Bayley (1-hour talk)
- Wednesday, 21 June 2023 14:00 - LGBTQIA+ History & Archives at Bishopsgate Institute with Stefan Dickers (1-hour talk)
- Thursday, 22 June 2023 14:00 - Lunchtime Chat: A Few Forgotten Women (90 minutes)
- Wednesday, 28 June 2023 19:30 - Wednesday Workshop-Family Heirlooms: Telling Their Stories with Janet Few (approx 90 mins)
- Thursday, 29 June 2023 14:00 - Choosing a PC Family History Package with John Hanson (1-hour talk)

Visit the website for more information and events [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) / [events@sog.org.uk](mailto:events@sog.org.uk)

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### **Brasted Place**

Did you know .....From about 1300, Brasted Place, a mansion and estate situated in the village of Brasted near Sevenoaks, was home to Brasted's Lords of the Manor. The original manor house was situated near the main road through the village, now the A25. However, in 1784 the new owner, Dr. John Turton, physician to King George III and Queen Charlotte, had the old house demolished and a new mansion, designed by the celebrated architect Robert Adam, was built on higher ground some way back from the road. Dr. Turton was keen to avoid a visit from the King who had shown a keen interest in the building of the new house, so he chose to build a smaller house rather than one of the grander designs proposed by Robert Adam. In that way, he could claim the house was not big enough for a royal visit! The king was clearly not offended, gifting the clock from Horse Guards Parade to the house, a feature which today is located on top of the old stables, reputedly because Dr. Turton didn't like the sound of the chimes. Dr. Turton also didn't like the existing road that cut through his estate near the new house, so he had New Road - which still runs between Sundridge and Ide Hill – built so that the old road could be closed.

Brasted Place has been home to many illustrious residents including; Sir Robert Heath, a Brasted man who rose to prominence as Attorney General in the reign of King Charles I – unsurprisingly he died in exile; the aforementioned Dr. Turton; Prince Louis Napoleon, later Emperor Napoleon III of France; William Tipping, a railway magnate, M.P and local benefactor who did much to improve Brasted village, and Leslie Urquhart, a mining entrepreneur in pre-revolutionary Russia who lost everything during the revolution and later founded the Mount Isa mines in Australia. In the post war years, Brasted Place served as a Theological College for 25 years and most recently the mansion house was converted into beautiful apartments.

**Source Book 'Brasted Place – Its Owners and Residents – A History' by Richard Seymour**

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**The Sevenoaks Committee: Branch Chair - Bill Chopping**

**Committee Members: Karina Jackson, Norma Holmden, Bernie Wilkins, Sandra Marchant, Barbara Attwaters**